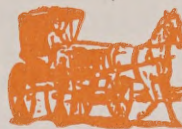




CRIMPVILLE COMMENTS

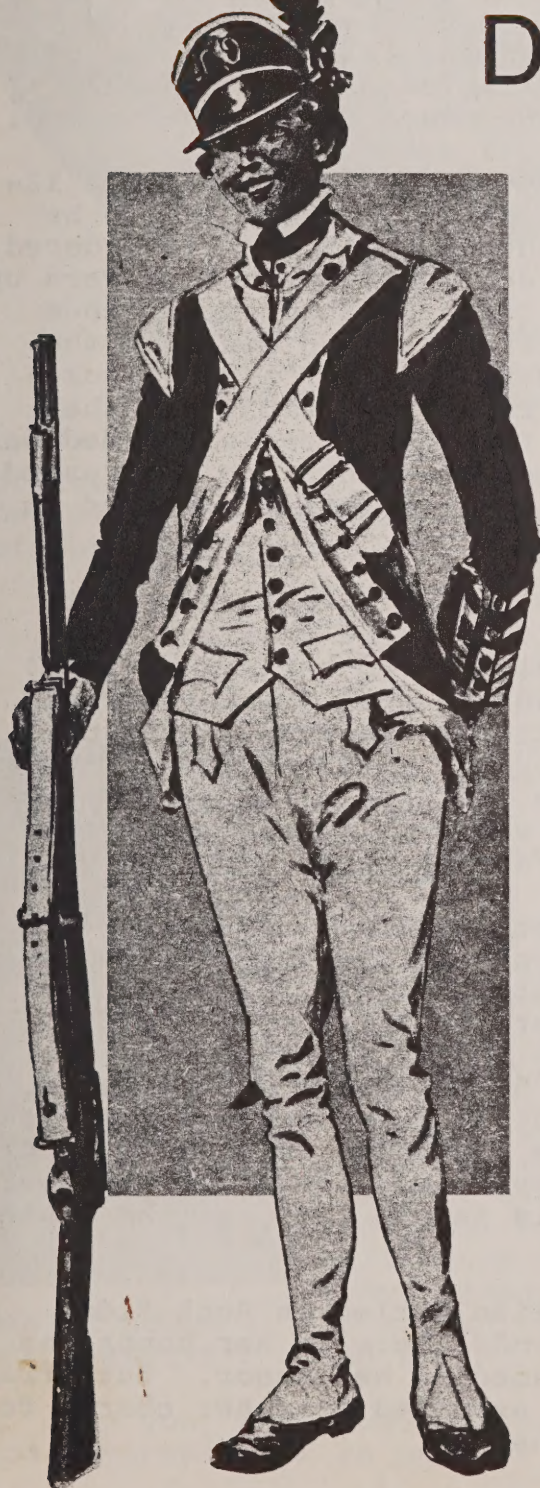
BELLINGHAM HISTORICAL
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Deborah Sampson



Deborah was born in Plympton, Mass. on December 17, 1760 to Deborah Bradford, great-granddaughter of Governor Bradford, and Jonathan Sampson, Jr., great-great-grandson of Miles Standish and of John Alden. She had six brothers and sisters before her father was lost at sea in a shipwreck. As an orphan, Deborah was farmed out to relatives and various people until late in 1770 when she was sent to the home of Deacon Thomas of Middleboro where he acted as guardian until she became of age. During this period, she was converted to the Baptist faith.

Deborah was vitally interested in the war and longed to do her share. She must have heard repeatedly how war had affected the Bradfords. In King Philip's war, the Governor's son William "received a musket ball in his flesh, which he carried the remainder of his life." Deborah little dreamt she would have a similar experience. Other relatives were killed by Indians in Maine and their children were carried off to Canada as captives.

In 1781, she dressed as a man in borrowed clothes and went to a nearby tavern where she tried to enlist as Timothy Thayer of Carver, but a woman who watched her sign for the bounty---Enlistees received money for joining---stated that she believed that the hand was none other than that of Deborah Sampson. Deborah denied this but hastily left and ran home in the dark.

—Photo of Deborah, courtesy of West Point Museum Collections. Watercolor by Herbert Knotel. Credit Miss Pauline Moody.

Later she wove and made her own suit and in the spring of 1782, she vanished from the Thomas home dressed as a man. There has been much speculation as to why a female should enlist in that day and age. Deborah, like most young girls in her position, probably desired a change. The Thomas boys had all enlisted and gone to war, and as she was probably lonesome, she formed a plan of dressing herself in male apparel and enlisting, hoping to meet the boys whom she looked upon as brothers. Having covered miles of despicable roads and trails, the would-be soldier finally arrived in Bellingham. Weary and penniless, she may have sought help from the unsuspecting Rev. Noah Alden, great-grandson of John and Priscilla and pastor of the Baptist Church in the Crimpville Section of the town, before she signed up as Robert Shurtlieff with recruiting speculator Noah Taft. For a bounty of sixty pounds she was to serve three years in the Continental Army. On May 23rd she was mustered in at Worcester by Capt. Eliphalet Thorpe into the 4th Mass. Regiment under General Paterson in Capt. Webb's Company under the command of Col. Shepard.

Shortly afterward she and about fifty others were sent on a 12-day march to West Point on the Hudson River, where they were to be quartered. Almost as soon as they arrived at camp they were ordered to go on a scouting party to New York to see what the British were up to. On their return journey, Delancey's Raiders caught up to them near Tarrytown, New York, and Deborah received a head wound in the skirmish. Later that winter, she volunteered to raid a Tory smoke-house for they were very much in need of food. Unfortunately they were discovered and as she was escaping, two musket balls wounded her thigh. Deborah dug out one of the balls with a penknife, and rested until she was able to rejoin her company, but the other remained in her thigh until her death.

In the summer of 1783, Deborah was ordered to Philadelphia to quell a riot by dissatisfied soldiers. It was here that she contracted typhoid fever and Doctor Binney discovered her sex at last! He kept it a secret with his special nurse and when she recovered, he sent her back to West Point with a letter to General Paterson, revealing her identity. Deborah was honorably discharged on October 25, 1783, by General Knox, but not before the General had the men she had served with pass in review. Deborah was in a dress and none of the men realized that this was their comrade in arms, Robert Shurtlieff!

Deborah later married Benjamin Gannett on April 1, 1785. They lived in Sharon, Mass., and were the parents of one boy and two girls. In 1797, Herbert Mann of Dedham wrote a story of her life and the lies that he spread clouded her real record to this day. In 1802, Deborah went on a lecture tour and Isaiah Thomas sponsored the Worcester series. His print shop, where her programs were printed, can be seen in Sturbridge Village where it has been preserved. A true account of her life is to be found in the book "The Incredible Deborah" by Cora Cheney. A copy of this book is available, for those who would like to become better acquainted with this famous lady, at the Center Library.

Deborah died on April 29, 1827 and lies buried in Rock Ridge Cemetery in Sharon, Mass. A monument stands there in her honor and during World War II a Liberty ship was named in her honor. But strangely enough, in September of 1782, she was expelled from her church for disappearing and enlisting as a man in the war.



Her portrait is on the reverse side of this medal honoring the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Bellingham is proud that Deborah Sampson saw fit to honor our town by being not only the only woman to enlist in the Continental Army as a soldier, but that she chose Bellingham as the place in which to enlist. In doing this she gave us an exclusive bit of history which has done much to enrich our heritage.

In last months issue of the "Crimpville Comments" we mentioned Stephen Metcalf of Caryville who represented the Town of Bellingham at the Meeting where the "Suffolk Resolves" were adopted. In this issue we give you the story of Deborah Sampson who along with others from the town fought so that not only our town but our country could gain her freedom.

Bellingham can once again be proud of its heritage and boast of these two individuals. Mr. Metcalf is not as well known as Deborah, but still he played an important part in the history of the town and of our country.

MEET JANICE LOGAN---BELLINGHAM'S "PAUL REVERE"

Last month we ran a story about "Paul Revere's 'Other Ride'", but unfortunately we did not have any pictures to print at the time. So with this issue we have the pictures and they can be found on the next two pages.

It is appropriate that once again a woman was chosen to honor Bellingham---as Deborah Sampson did in the previous story---in the re-enactment of Paul Revere's ride to bring the "Suffolk Resolves" to a waiting Continental Congress in Philadelphia.

Mrs. Logan resides at 479 Hartford Ave and is a member of the "Trail Riders Club". We do not know just how the riders were selected for the re-enactment ride, but we do know that by picking Janice Logan, Bellingham was once again honored by having a fine lady, "masquerading" as a man as did Deborah Sampson on May 20, 1782 when she enlisted as Robert Shurtlieff and served in the Continental Army.

To you, Mrs. Logan, thank you for making this event significant and memorable for so many of the fine people of Bellingham.

Paul Revere's 'Other Ride'



JOSEPH LOMBARD-"PAUL REVERE"
MILLIS - MEDWAY



JANICE LOGAN-"PAUL REVERE"
CARYVILLE - BLACKSTONE
left in picture, EDWARD WHALLEY,
CO-ORDINATOR



"PAUL REVERE" POSTING A
COPY OF THE "SUFFOLK
RESOLVES" IN BELLINGHAM.



WAITING FOR "PAUL REVERE AT STALLBROOK



"PAUL REVERE" ARRIVING AT STALLBROOK SCHOOL



TAKING IT ALL IN AT
STALLBROOK SCHOOL



"PAUL REVERE" TALKING TO FANS AT STALLBROOK



DANIEL SALVUCCI EXPLAINS WHAT IT'S ALL
ABOUT



WILLIAM MITCHELL-BERTHA
KEYSER
MILLVILLE - SOUTH UXBRIDGE



"PAUL REVERE"-HAROLD PIXLEY-DANIEL
SALVUCCI AND FRIENDS AT DEPOT ST.



HEADING FOR BLACKSTONE ON
OLD RAILROAD BED OFF
MENDON ST.

Grandma's Laundry Took Time



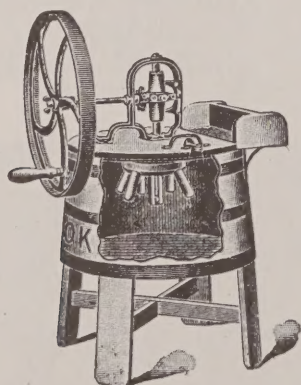
Washing clothes was far from a push-button job 100 years ago. Until the early 1800s most washing was done in a nearby stream. The 19th century brought the beginning of the wash boiler to "cook" the clothes clean. About the same time many types of washtubs and scrubboards were developed.

By 1850, the inventive mind of man created the washing machines to help the aching arms of women. The 1850 washing machine had a crank to move an agitator up and down. It made washing easier but laundry still required time and muscles, and it was still necessary to rinse and wring the clothes by hand.

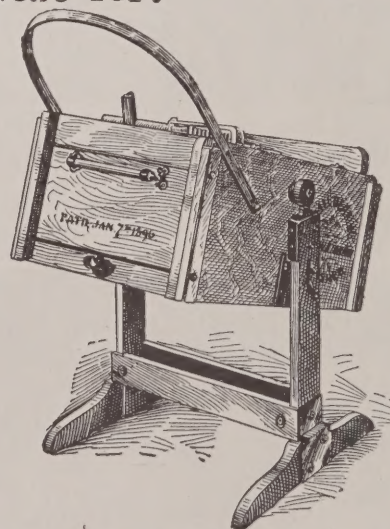
Electric powered washing machines were developed by 1910 and the agitator was moved by a motor. A rocking motion machine was developed by 1920. True liberation came during the late 1930s with the advent of the automatic washer.

Dozens of styles of washing machines were made and sold—most of them had wooden tubs with wooden or cast iron parts. They were made to be cranked by hand. How about it ladies, how many votes for "the good old days?"

Above is pictured what was known as an "automatic" in 1904, below are pictured two other types taken from an old advertisement. Well worth noting is the prices these beauties went for.



The only Rotary Washer that has revolving steel ball gearing, reducing the friction and thus making the Machine so light running and almost noiseless. The Tub is made of Louisiana Red Cypress lumber, and corrugated similar to a washboard. The legs are solid with tub (not removable, breakable legs fastened with screws). The wheel turns right or left, and the Pin-wheel or Dasher reverses automatically. The Tub has a wringer box fastened with steel brackets. The Lid on Tub closes tight, and does not allow the steam to escape. Has gilded hoops and castings.



This Machine combines the reciprocal Pin-wheel motion with an oscillating motion of the whole Suds Box; this allows the capacity of the Machine to be almost doubled and assures the clothes being washed quickly, perfectly clean, and with the very smallest amount of labor. The best yellow cotton-wood lumber is used in its construction and it is well made and well finished throughout. The Ball Bearings do away with all friction. Castings are heavy and strong and are all finished in Japan, or by being Galvanized.

- O. K.—Rotary Round Washing Machine, Medium Size..... Each, \$ 9.50
- No. 6—Ball Bearing Combination Square Washing Machine, Small Family Size..... Each, 10.00
- No. 7—Ball Bearing Combination Square Washing Machine, Large Family Size..... Each, 11.00

ONE IN A CRATE; SHIPPING WEIGHT, O. K., 87 POUNDS; NO. 6, 76 POUNDS; NO. 7, 88 POUNDS.

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF COLLECTING



NOTICE

If anyone has any old pictures that were taken in Bellingham, your Historical Commission would be most pleased to reproduce them for future issues of this publication. They will be returned to you unharmed and the pictures will at the same time be preserved for history.

Also if any of you have any questions about the town and its history please send us a note and we will try to answer them in the "Crimville Comments".

We have had many requests for the story of the Ghost Train which was featured in the March, 1974 issue. Those of you who wish a copy, we have some left. They will be given on a first come first served basis.

MORE BITS AND PIECES FROM THE AMOS ADAMS DIARY.

- Jan. 16, 1905 "I went in to Mr. Clarks and played dominoes a while this eve."
- Mar. 5, 1905 "Abbie Marsh went to doing housework for Walter Thayer yesterday."
- Mar. 17, 1905 "I began to take white pine and tar for my cold."
- Mar. 25, 1905 "Worked 83 hours in the mill this week, Average of 15½ hours per day. Paid \$11.07 or an avg. of \$.12 1/3 per hour."
- May 30, 1905 "Cloudy A.M. clear and warm P.M. I planted popcorn & mowed some of the yard A.M. & hung screendoor. Annie and I went to Hoag Lake P.M. a very good show."
- Jun 27, 1905 "There was a head-on collision of electrics near P. Cooks this morning. A number injured."
- Jul. 7, 1905 "John Reardon of Caryville was killed this morning by being kicked by a horse."
- Sep. 13, 1905 "The Grange fare (fair) was held here today."
- Oct. 5, 1905 "Annie & I went to the (Brockton) fair today. Had a good time."
- Nov. 7, 1905 "I voted the straight Republican ticket."
- Nov. 18, 1905 "I had my best shoes tapped at Cantons." (Milford)
- Nov. 29, 1905 "I went down to A.N. Whitneys this eve and got two roosters."
- Dec. 10, 1905 "About 6 inches of snow fell-the first of the season."
- Dec. 22, 1905 "I received of N.W.Co. \$5 in gold as a Christmas Present." (Norfolk Woolen Co.---Red Mill.)

WHEN THE GOOD FRIENDS DROP IN.

It may be I'm old fashioned, but the times I like the best
Are not the splendid parties with the women gayly dressed,
And the music tuned for dancing and the laughter of the throng,
With a paid comedian's antics or a hired singer's song,
But the quiet times of friendship, with the chuckles and the grin,
And the circle at the fireside when a few good friends drop in.

There's something round the fireplace that no club can imitate,
And no throng can ever equal just a few folks near the grate;
Though I sometimes like an opera, there's no music quite so sweet
As the singing of the neighbors that you're always glad to meet;
Oh, I know when they come calling that the fun will soon begin,
And I'M happiest those evenings when a few good friends drop in.

There's no pomp of preparation, there's no style or sham or fuss,
We are glad to welcome callers who are glad to be with us,
And we sit around and visit or we start a merry game,
And we show them by our manner that we're mighty pleased they came,
For there's something real about it, and the yarns we love to spin,
And the time flies oh, so swiftly when a few good friends drop in.

Let me live my life among them, cheerful, kindly folks and true.
And I'll ask no greater glory till my time of life is through;
Let me share the love and favor of the few who know me best,
And I'll spend my time contented till my sun sinks in the west;
I'll take what fortune sends me and the little I may win,
And be happy on those evenings when a few good friends drop in.

Edgar A. Guest

Part of the tradition around 1910 was the sending of Post Cards
for the many occasions and holidays to the many friends and relatives.



This custom has unfortunately become a thing of the past. But we here at "Crimpsville Comments" believe in some of the "old fashioned ways" and send along this greeting for a happy holiday.

We wish our many readers a Happy Thanksgiving.

Bellingham
Historical Commission
